

Almon, of Halifax, N.S. On her mother's side, she belongs to the old Nova Scotian family of the De Wolfe's, of whose pedigree an interesting tale is told, stating when and from whence the name was derived. We quote from the "Genealogie und Waapen Von Deutschland," vol. 3. In 1370 Louis de St. Etienne, a younger son of the French noble family of that name, was one of the attendants of King Charles V. upon a hunting excursion. The monarch, being attacked by a ferocious she wolf whose cub he had wounded, was rescued from imminent death by the youthful courtier. From that time he was called de le Loup, and was the ancestor of the noble French family of that name. Etienne de le Loup, son of Louis de le Loup, accompanied the Princess Mathilde into Germany, when about to marry the eldest son of Frederic Elector and Duke of Saxony, in 1423. Being made a Baron in 1427, he changed his name from the French de le Loup to the German de Wolf.

Professor Roberts writes me "that the publication of Mr. Bliss Carman's 'Trilogy on Matthew Arnold' is delayed till next April, to admit of the 1st Part, called 'Death in April,' being issued in the April number of the *Atlantic Monthly*. This part has over two hundred lines and the compliment is an unusual one." TALON.

### JEAN NICOLET.

Both Shea and Parkman, in their histories of Northwestern discovery, recognize John Nicolet as among the early explorers. Parkman tells the story of the traveller's approach to a Winnebago village, clothed in a long robe of Chinese damask covered with rich embroidery of birds and flowers. Rumours had reached the French in Canada of a people from the far west, without hair or beards, who came in trade with the Indians beyond the Great Lakes. These people, it was conjectured, must needs be Asiatics; for nobody doubted then that Far Kathay was far only when sought for by an eastern voyage or journey; but the westward traveller would soon and surely come upon those wonderful kingdoms of the great Khan. Columbus, on his last voyage, had sent out messengers to find the court of that renowned monarch, which he was sure could not be many miles distant from the coast of the Carribean Sea. They were no wiser in Quebec when, nearly a hundred and fifty years afterward, Champlain sent Nicolet on an exploring expedition westward, and the ambassador was furnished with this gorgeous robe of damask that he might be in suitable apparel to meet the mandarins of the East.

Nicolet was one of those indomitable Frenchmen whom no dangers could appall and no sufferings deter when bent upon penetrating into new regions or finding new tribes of natives. Whether it was to lead these benighted heathen into the warm bosom of Mother Church; or to induce them to bring their peltries to Quebec; or to reach that great western sea of which they gathered vague reports from the wandering savages, these adventurers were equally zealous and equally courageous. There is no romance in the early history of North America more captivating than the stories of the French missionaries who, encumbered with nothing but the few articles necessary to the setting up of an altar, turned their backs upon the world and their faces to the wilderness. For the love of Christ and his Mother, and for the sake of heathen men, they were glad to encounter any peril, to submit to any tortures that savage cruelty could inflict; to go to almost certain death, and to die where none but savages should ever know how or when, that souls might be saved, the true faith be proclaimed, and God be glorified. In the history of the world there appears nowhere more devoted abnegation and nowhere, perhaps, a self-sacrifice more complete. Not less determined, though with a less exalted motive, were the laymen who plunged into unknown regions for the sake of adventure and exploration. Nicolet was one of these, to whom history has not yet done full justice. He was the first European, no doubt,

who ever reached the territory now divided into the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin; the first who passed through the Straits of Mackinaw, crossed Lake Michigan, landed upon the shores of Green Bay, and penetrated beyond to within three days' travel of the northern Mississippi. On this long journey he was absent no less, probably, than a year, and it may have been some months longer. Though he neither discovered the western sea he hoped to find, nor met with any mandarins or other people whom he could reasonably believe came from its shores, he carried back to Champlain new knowledge of the vast extent of the region stretching westward, and of its great inland seas. A previous residence of years among the Indians and the acquisition of some of their dialects had been his best training for such an expedition; but even these would have been insufficient without the indomitable will, the courage and the endurance of the man.

### MILITIA NOTES.

Nine pounder shells, manufactured at the Quebec factory, have been thoroughly tested, and pronounced by military officers present, who acted as judges, equal to shells imported from England.

Three times during the year troops were called out in aid of the civil power: C Battery of British Columbia, in connection with the Skeena Indian troubles; the Mounted Infantry at Winnipeg, in anticipation of rioters proceeding to extremes; and the Cookshire Cavalry and part of the 58th Battalion, to maintain order during the Hereford Railway strike.

Our other Royal Schools of military instruction have continued to give satisfaction, and have become popular with the Force. They all appear to have done good work, and are reported on in complimentary terms by the general officer commanding. Certificates have been granted during the year to 19 in the cavalry, 76 in the artillery, 13 in the mounted infantry, 226 in the infantry schools.

Four 9-pr. rifled guns, with carriages, etc., complete, purchased from the Imperial authorities, were issued to No. 2 Battery of the 1st Brigade of Field Artillery, at Guelph, in exchange for obsolete smooth-bore guns. The whole of our Field Artillery is now armed with rifled guns, except the Sydney Battery, which, the General hopes, will be supplied at an early day with this improved armament.

Lieut.-Col. J. M. Gibson, the gallant commanding officer of the 13th Battalion, Hamilton, has been promoted to a place in the Ontario Cabinet. He has been sworn in as Provincial Secretary, *vice* Hon. A. M. Hardy, who has become Commissioner of Crown Lands in the place of Hon. T. B. Pardee, resigned on account of ill health. The new Minister is one of the most popular officers in the militia.

The total strength of the active militia, on the 31st December last, was 37,474, of which 1,079 belong to the Royal Artillery College and schools. The remainder (36,395) is divided among the provinces as follows: Ontario, 16,988; Quebec, 11,600; New Brunswick, 2,461; Nova Scotia, 3,646; Manitoba, 813; British Columbia, 270; and Prince Edward Island, 617. The various arms are as follows: Cavalry, 1,987; field artillery, 1,440; garrison artillery, 2,362; engineers, 179; infantry, 31,506.

The Report of the Minister of Militia and Defense contains many important points of information. It is most gratifying to find that graduates of the Royal Military College, who have taken commissions in the Imperial Service, have given great satisfaction; and the fact that six extra commissions in the Royal Engineers were offered during the year to graduates shows that the Imperial authorities are fully aware of, and duly appreciate, the value of this institution and the high standard in military training of its graduates.

Major-General Middleton, in his report, makes valuable statements and suggestions. He pleads the necessity of more guns of position and new field battery guns, and the question of rifle instruction for the Force in general, including the necessity of more ammunition for the rifle and use of Morris or other tubes for winter practice; also, the advisability of reducing the number of the Militia and the necessity of calling out every corps every year; the advisability of giving more encouragement to the Engineer branch of the Force.

The Cavalry School at Quebec, it is now recommended, should be increased to fifty men and horses. It is also absolutely necessary that an addition of one subaltern, a riding master and a quarter-master sergeant should be made at once, and that the senior duty officer should hold the rank of captain, as is the case in all the other school corps. This would enable the commander to depute Lieut.-Colonel Turnbull to inspect at some of the camps, which will be of great advantage to the Cavalry branch of the force. It is also to be hoped that a second Cavalry School will be formed at Toronto, with a detachment at Kingston, where the Battery is very much overtaxed in having to furnish horses for the lessons in equitation of the gentlemen cadets and officers. The Artillery Schools at Quebec, Kingston and Victoria are all commended.



Misfortunes are said to come in pairs, but the first one surely came with an apple.

It is no use to fret about the inevitable; but sometimes it helps one to pass away the time.

Simpson (tremulously): "Emma, darling, say yes, and there will be another—" Newsboy (outside): "Big breach of promise case! Extra!"

A fine portrait of a late New Haven judge hangs in a local court room with a card appended, bearing the somewhat ambiguous legend: "Executed by—"

"You all remember the words of Webster," shouted the orator. "No, we don't," interrupted a man in the gallery. "He has so many words, I can't remember more than half of 'em."

Patient: "What would you advise, doctor, for this horrible buzzing in my head?" Doctor: "Persian insect powder. Somebody has probably been putting a flea in your ear."

Bob Ingersoll says he's coming to our inaugural ball and dance as a compliment to the Indiana preachers. Bob proposes to have a place-that-doesn't-exist of a time, and don't you forget it.

Shovelling snow is a very healthful, bracing, invigorating operation, but to enjoy the exercise thoroughly you need to sit at the parlour window with a book and watch some other fellow doing it.

"You remind me of a hen sitting on an old egg," said an editor to a plagiarist who was working over an old-time poem. "Why so?" asked the reconstructor. "Because you are warming up an ancient lay."

Chloe: "Good mawning, Aunt Dinah. How's Uncle Rastus dis mawning?" Aunt Dinah: "Very bad; fac is he's got a 'lignant ulster on his back." Chloe: "Dreadful!" Aunt Dinah: "Ya-as, I'se 'fraid Rastus going to be 'firmed infidel."

Lawyer: "Will your Honour put the usual question to the witness as to his religious belief?" Jude: "Witness, do you believe in the existence of a supreme being that controls the affairs of men?" Witness: "Yawohl, Shudge, dot vos my wife, Katrina. Dot voman vas der boss!"

If adown the chute you'd fly  
Ere the season passes by,  
And the spring's warm, genial sunshine on you steals,  
Do not wait for coming snow,  
But to work just gently go  
And your fleet toboggans ornament with wheels.

A Costa Rica volcano, after sleeping for several years, has roused itself for a grand effort, and caused over five million dollars' damage in the country round about. This shows that a volcano should be awakened with the greatest care, and that it should not be permitted to put its left leg out of bed first.

A gentleman recently returned from a drive through the country towns of New York asserts that he has not very much objection to a cottage that is consistently Queen Anne all through, but he evinces a strong antipathy to those houses—and their name is legion—"that are Queen Anne in front and Mary Anne at the back."

#### LADY MACBETH—A PUZZLE.

Some say she was meant to be thin,  
Some say she was meant to be fat;  
Some say she was meant to be this,  
Some say she was meant to be that.  
But whatever William meant her to be,  
She is, for the present, a Mys-Terree.

Smith: "I see that Max O'Rell compliments the innate delicacy of New York men because they prefer to stand up in an elevated car rather than sit in a sofa seat occupied by a lady." Brown: "Huh! Max is way off on that matter." "How so?" "Why, a man in such a case stands up, because the lady always sits so as to take up the whole seat. He would sit down fast enough if he could."

#### HE CAME BACK.

At the end of the lane by the big white gate  
(Oh, the heart of youth is fickle!)  
He left his love, for a year to wait.  
Sing fickle, oh, so fickle!  
"I'll return when the blushing roses bloom,  
And be true to thee till the day of doom."  
With a good-by kiss in the deepening gloom.  
Oh, sing of a youth so fickle!  
"Will he ever return?" the maiden cried,  
Alas, that hearts are fickle!  
And she sat her down and loud she sighed.  
Sing fickle, oh, so fickle!  
But he came, as he said, all safe from harm,  
And strolled down the lane in the June-time warm,—  
But another girl hung on his arm!  
Oh, fickle, fickle, fickle!